

**REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-18 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 8, 9, and 14 being independent.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication on page 3 of the Office Action that claims 8, 9, and 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have rewritten claims 8, 9, and 14 into independent form. Thus claims 8, 9, and 14 should now be considered allowed. Furthermore, all pending claims should be considered allowable at least for the reasons detailed below.

***Drawing Objections***

The Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a), stating that the drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Specifically, the Examiner states that the "partial segments," as recited in, for example, claim 6, are not shown in the drawings.

Applicants respectfully submit that the feature of the "partial segments" are explicitly shown in the drawings and described in the specification. Referring to paragraph 29 of the present application, it is taught that "[a]rranged on the inner

side of through passage 32 are three thread part-segments 38 displaced by 60° relatively to each other...." Referring to Fig. 3, the three part-segments, e.g. partial segments, are clearly shown and labeled by reference label "38." Thus, the drawings show every feature of the invention specified in the claim and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

### ***Claim Rejections***

The Examiner rejected: claims 1-5, 10-13, and 15-18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Birk et al. (US 5,339,119); claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Birk et al.; and claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Birk et al. in view of DE 1218892. These rejections are respectfully traversed insofar as they pertain to the presently pending claims.

Independent claim 1 is directed to an air outlet device for a vehicle. The air outlet device includes: a nozzle body with an air intake opening and an air outlet opening; a holding element formed with an accommodating opening having the nozzle body supported therein for rotation about a longitudinal axis extending through the air intake opening and the air outlet opening; and a valve body, arranged coaxially within the nozzle body and guided by the holding element. The valve body upon rotation of the nozzle body can be displaced in the nozzle body between a closing position for

blocking the air outlet opening and a maximum opening position for clearing the air outlet opening for maximum air flow. Additionally, the valve body is provided, on its closing end facing towards the air outlet opening of the nozzle body, with a cover member, the cover member substantially covering the closing end of the valve body and being insertable into the closing end of the valve body.

Birk et al. is directed to an air valve device that can be selectively opened and oriented for directing a desired quantity of ventilation air in a desired direction. Applicants respectfully submit that Birk et al. fails to teach or suggest at least that a cover member substantially covers a closing end of a valve body and is insertable into the closing end of the valve body, as recited in independent claim 1.

The Examiner alleges that the flattened annular bottom wall 40 of Birk et al. supposedly reads on a cover. Referring to Fig. 1 of Birk et al., it can be clearly seen that flattened annular bottom wall 40 does not substantially cover a closing end of the valve member 14 and is not insertable into the closing end of the valve member 14. In fact, the bottom wall 40 of Birk et al. defines an output opening 24 into which a flattened bottom wall 46 of the valve member 14 is able to fit. Thus, Birk et al. does not teach that a cover member substantially covers a closing end of a valve body.

Furthermore, the valve member 14 of Birk et al. is designed as an "integral synthetic resin member," (see col. 2, lines 56-57). Thus, Birk et al. does not teach that a cover member is insertable into the closing end of a valve body, because the valve member 14 of Birk et al. is of a solid construction, which, as one skilled in the art would appreciate, increases weight. Referring to paragraph 5 of the present invention, it is taught that "in aircraft construction, the desired reduction of weight dictates a light-weighted and nonetheless stable construction of the individual components." The flattened bottom wall 46 of Birk et al. is an integral portion of the solid valve member 14, and is not a separate element that is inserted into the valve member as in the present invention, so that the overall weight of the valve body is reduced because the valve body of the present invention can be hollow.

Accordingly, because Birk et al. does not anticipate at least independent claim 1, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection. Furthermore, claims 2-7, 10-13, and 15-18 are dependent claims, which should be considered allowable at least for depending from an allowable base claim.

#### **Conclusion**

In view of the above amendments and remarks, this application appears to be in condition for allowance and the Examiner is,

therefore, requested to reexamine the application and pass the claims to issue.

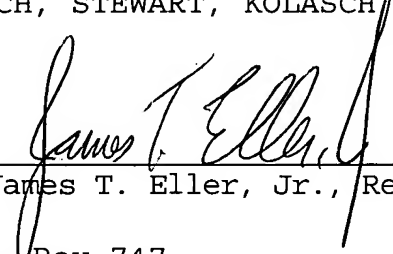
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Martin Geissler (Reg. 51,011) at telephone number (703) 205-8000, which is located in the Washington, DC area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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